

Higginbottom shines in home opener against Huskies



PHOTO COURTESY ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS

Izzy Higginbottom guard (pictured) scored a career-high 31 points in Arkansas State's home opener against NIU Huskies.

BRAYDEN MORSE

SPECIAL TO THE HERALD

For the women's basketball home opener, 2,685 elementary school students attended Education Day at First National Bank Arena to watch a win by the Red Wolves.

Head coach Destinee Rogers expressed her thoughts on the support of the students.

"I love this game because it gives us a chance to play in front of a bunch of people, but also to inspire a bunch of kids.

We want all of the little girls and boys to know that they can sit in these seats as well. We loved the environment," Rogers said.

The Red Wolves had a strong lead in the first half until the Huskies scored 11 unanswered points in the last four and a half minutes of the second quarter, but held on for the win.

Junior guard #23 Izzy Higginbottom scored a career-high 31 points in Arkansas State's 75-63 victory.

Higginbottom continues to show why she is a leader for the Red Wolves with her career-high game, but also the way she talks about her team when being down 33-31 at halftime.

Higginbottom addressed her pride for how the team responded in the second half. "That shows a lot of improvement and growth. It

played in the second half. The message to them was, winners do not fold. No matter what adversity we see, we have to be able to overcome it, and we overcame it today," Rogers said.

Junior guard #15 Anna Griffin led the team with 13 rebounds, while sophomore guard #2 Wynter Rogers, sister of Coach Rogers, scored 11 points with a 71.4% from field-goal range.

Wynter expressed her feelings on her first game at First National Bank

"No matter what adversity we see, we have to be able to overcome it, and we overcame it today," Destinee Rogers said.

shows how resilient this team is. We started to pick ourselves up from within as a team. I was really proud of how we listened to coach and took what she said and put it into play in the second half," Higginbottom said.

A-State beat Northern Illinois in rebounds with 31, as well as having a higher three-point percentage of 37.5% in the win.

"I am so proud of the way my team responded and

Arena with her sister as the head coach, after transferring from West Virginia this offseason.

"It was a really great experience and I am really happy to be here at Arkansas State," Wynter said.

The Red Wolves are now 1-1 on the season, as they prepare for the Arkansas Razorbacks next Friday at home at 7 p.m. on ESPN+.

A-State's Whitlock tabbed SBC Offensive Player of the Week

PRESS RELEASE

ARKANSAS STATE

Following a sensational final weekend of the regular season, Arkansas State's Kaitlin Whitlock earned the Sun Belt Conference's final volleyball Offensive Player of the Week, the league office announced Tuesday.

Whitlock compiled 44 kills in the Red Wolves' two wins over Marshall, averaging 5.50 kills per set across eight frames. The freshman outside hitter registered a blistering .313 clip on 96 swings.

The San Antonio, Texas, native also recorded her team-leading 11th and 12th double doubles on the year against the Thundering Herd. Whitlock tallied 18 kills (.350) and 13 digs in Friday's sweep before knocking down 26 kills (.286) with 14 digs in Saturday's regular-season finale.

She is A-State's second weekly award winner of the season after Erin Madigan was named the league's Setter of the Week on Sept. 19. She is the program's first Offensive



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Kaitlin Whitlock earned SBC offensive player of the week

Player of the Week since Macey Putt (Sept. 14, 2021) and the school's first freshman to receive the honor since Carlisa May (Sept. 15, 2015).

Whitlock leads the team in kills (281), kills per set (2.93), attacks (857), points (305.5) and points per set (3.18), while ranking second on the squad in

digs (278) and digs per set (2.90).

NEXT UP

Whitlock and the Red Wolves, seeded sixth in the West Division, begin Sun Belt Conference Tournament play at 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, facing the East Division's No. 7 seed Georgia State. All tournament matches will be held at the Foley

Events Center in Foley, Ala., and will be broadcasted live on ESPN+.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Fans can follow the team on Twitter (@AStateVB) and Instagram (@astatevb) along with liking the Arkansas State Red Wolves Volleyball page on Facebook for the latest news and updates regarding the team.

Upcoming Events:

Wednesday, Nov. 15

- Women's Volleyball vs Georgia State at the Sun Belt Conference Championship Foley, AL. At 2:30 PM.

Friday, Nov 17

- Men's Basketball vs Iowa at Iowa City, IA at 7 p.m.
- Women's Basketball vs Arkansas at Jonesboro, AR at 7 p.m.

Saturday, Nov 18

- Cross Country at NCAA Cross Country Championships at Charlottesville, VA
- Football vs Texas State at Jonesboro, AR at 2 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov 21

- Women's Basketball vs Hendrix at Jonesboro, AR at 7 p.m.

Friday, Nov 24

- Men's Basketball vs San Diego at Acrisure Invitational at Palm Springs, CA. At 9:30 p.m. (CT)

Saturday, Nov 25

- Men's Basketball vs Hawai'i/UTRGV at Acrisure Invitational at Palm Springs, CA., time TBA
- Football at Marshall Huntington, WV at 2:30 p.m. (CT)

A-State Men's Golf signs Cole Kirby

PRESS RELEASE

ARKANSAS STATE

Arkansas State men's golf head coach Mike Hagen announced Tuesday that Cole Kirby has signed his National Letter of Intent to join the program for the 2024-25 season.

"I'm excited to add Cole to this recruiting class," said Hagen. "Cole is a solid athlete

and a proven winner. He has the ability to take it low and we look forward to his success as a part of our program."

Kirby is a two-time individual state champion and three-time All-State selection. Kirby, playing for Brookland High School, fired a career-low 8-under par 64 to earn medalist honors at the 4A-3 championship in 2023 helping

the Bearcats capture the team title by 29 shots. He turned in a 7-under par 65 to win the 4A State title this season, his second consecutive state title. At the overall state championship this year, Kirby finished tied for sixth.

A standout in basketball as well, Kirby was named all-state and is a two-time all-conference pick, leading his team in scoring one season.



PHOTO COURTESY ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS